

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for manipulating an orthopedic device having first and second baseplates, the apparatus comprising:
 - at least one shaft having a longitudinal axis and a shaft distal end adapted for engagement with the device,
 - the shaft distal end having upper and lower surfaces for simultaneous engagement with a lower surface of the first baseplate and an upper surface of the second baseplate, respectively, to hold the baseplates relative to one another in a preferred lordosis position when so engaged,
 - the shaft distal end further having forward surfaces for engagement with corresponding confronting surfaces of at least one of the baseplates for axial rotationally aligning the at least one of the baseplates with respect to the longitudinal axis.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the preferred lordosis position angles the first baseplate and the second baseplate with respect to one another at 15 degrees.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one extension coupled to the shaft distal end and having the upper and lower surfaces.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the upper surface of the second baseplate has a curvate contour relative to a lateral plane of the second baseplate and the lower surface of the extension has a contour following the curvate contour, and the lower surface of the first baseplate has a flat contour, and the upper surface of the extension is flat and angled with respect to the lateral plane at a desired lordosis angle.
5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the extension protrudes from a centrally located portion of the shaft distal end.

6. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the extension protrudes across an entire lateral span of a face of the shaft distal end.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forward surfaces of the shaft distal end are flat and angled with respect to one another for mating with the confronting surfaces of the baseplates, the confronting surfaces being correspondingly flat and angled.
8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the forward surfaces are angled with respect to one another at an orientation angle that facilitates engagement of the apparatus with the device in a plurality of rotated positions with respect to the device such that possible engagement orientations approaches include at least an anterior insertion approach and at least one anterior-lateral insertion approach.
9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forward surfaces are adapted for engagement with the device such that either an anterior-laterally facing forward surface and an anteriorly facing forward surface is mateable with any of an anterior-laterally facing confronting surface and an anteriorly facing confronting surface.
10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the anteriorly facing forward surface is spaced from the anteriorly facing confronting surface when two anterior-laterally facing surfaces are engaged with two anterior-laterally facing forward surfaces.
11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the anteriorly facing forward surface has a length greater than the anteriorly facing confronting surface.
12. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein engagement of at least two of the forward surfaces with at least two of the confronting surfaces significantly limits movement of the at least one of the baseplates relative to the apparatus.
13. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein engagement of at least two of the forward surfaces with at least two of the confronting surfaces substantially minimizes rotation of either of the baseplates about a longitudinal axis of the device.

14. An apparatus for manipulating an orthopedic device, the apparatus comprising:
a shaft having a distal end having an extension;
an extendible and retractable holding pin located internal to at least a portion of the shaft distal end; and
a spring coupled to the holding pin and located internal to at least a portion of the shaft and biasing the pin toward retraction;
wherein a holding pin distal end of the holding pin is bent downwardly such that the holding pin distal end prevents the holding pin from being entirely retracted within the shaft under the bias;
wherein the holding pin engages and disengages a corresponding holding pin device hole of the device;
wherein a lower surface of the extension prevents the holding pin from upward movement with respect to the shaft distal end; and
wherein the spring spring-loads the holding pin toward at least one shaft distal end surface of the shaft distal end such that when the holding pin is engaged with the corresponding holding pin device hole, the spring spring-loads at least one surface of the device to at least one of the shaft distal end surfaces.
15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the device comprises a first baseplate and a second baseplate, and wherein the holding pin engages and disengages a corresponding holding pin baseplate hole of the first baseplate.
16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the holding pin extends through the extension in a longitudinal direction relative to the shaft.
17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein overcoming the spring-load of the spring when the holding pin is engaged with the holding pin disc hole allows the holding pin to be removed from the holding pin hole to release the device from the apparatus.
18. The apparatus according to claim 14, the apparatus further comprising a flange mechanically coupled to the holding pin, wherein exerting pressure on the flange in a distal

direction overcomes the spring-load of the spring to space the holding pin at a distance from the extension.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, the apparatus further comprising a knob coupled to the shaft, wherein rotation of the knob moves the flange such that the holding pin moves closer to the shaft distal end, and wherein reverse rotation of the knob moves the flange such that the holding pin moves away from the shaft distal end.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the knob is threaded to the shaft, and interference between threads of the knob and threads of the shaft lock the holding pin in position.